

September 30, 1966
Augusta Ga.

Mayor Ivan Allen
City Hall
Atlanta Ga.

Dear Sir;

In reference to your recent statement you made concerning Mr. Lester Maddox (Democratic Nominee For Governor), I wish to enter a strong protest to you personally for your statement you made to the people of Ga. "that he was elected by the combined forces of ignorance, prejudice, reactionism, and the duplicity of many Republican voters". I wish to inform you that my right to vote is my God* given right of our Constitution and I consider my self not ignorant but three years of high school education here in Augusta, and it may be true that I do not have the political know-how in politics as you may possess and I consider it a disgrace to the people of our good state of Ga. for you to make a public statement "calling the people of Ga. ignorant because they voted for Mr. Maddox". In my opinion you owe the people of Ga. an apology for making a statement as that. I vote for whom I want to vote for and I certainly do not appreciate if some one called me ignorant because I did not vote for their hand picked candidate. I am a World War II veteran and we fought for the right to vote as we please and I think you should apologize for the recent statement you made. Mr. Allen, for your information I do not claim to possess all the brains that are to be had and I am certainly not a "crank" but a statement such as this from the mayor of our capitol city of Atlanta Ga. certainly "shakes me up". There are plenty of citizens here in Augusta also take exception to your statement and they too want to inform you that they are not stupid or ignorant as your statement may imply. I voted for Mr. Lester Maddox in the Democratic run off and if the good Lord is willing, I intend to certainly vote for Mr. Maddox in the general election in November. I do not say that people are ignorant because my candidate lost, I feel like that if that is what the majority want it is alright with me. I am not a Republican and have always voted the Democratic ticket so do not accuse me of being a Republican, I am not a rabbi - rouser so do not accuse me of being a hate - monger, and I am certainly not incompetent as I have a fairly good education, I would like to suggest to you that in the future if your candidate should lose, do not call the people ignorant because they did not vote your way, I would like to know, "Who do you think you are calling me stupid, ignorant, and incompetent because I did not vote for your candidate". I only wish I were a citizen of Atlanta where I could vote against you, but according to you, I am ignorant because I did not vote for you. I suggest you handle the mayor's office in Atlanta and let the people of Ga. vote as they please.

Thank You,

C.C. Mr. Lester Maddox
Atlanta Ga.

Mr. Earl Newman Sr.
1720 Broad St.
Augusta, Ga.